

We live in a nation at war.

It seems like some people may forget that every now and again, caught up in the debate over health care reform or the state of our economy. But the men and women in our armed forces and their families never forget. As they and their loved ones ship out to defend our country, putting their lives on the line for all of us, they are constantly reminded of this simple fact.

I am privileged to work in the federal government where I have the opportunity to work to show my gratitude to those men and women for their sacrifice and for their dedication to service. I am proud that my votes helped to pass legislation through the House of Representatives that would improve the health care of our 1.8 million women veterans, expand the health insurance options available to all veterans, and help returning veterans find jobs. We have a responsibility to our veterans, and we in Congress and across the country must continue to work to meet it. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

I'd also like to draw particular attention to the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program Reauthorization Act (HR 1171) which the House passed in March. There are no words to express how wrong it is that 131,000 of our veterans are homeless. In San Antonio, estimates suggest that veterans make up a full 30% of our homeless population. The [Haven for Hope](#) facility is playing an ever increasing role in reducing that figure, but there is much work to be done. That's one reason why I was so thrilled to hear Veterans Affairs Secretary Shinseki introduce himself earlier this month with the words,

["My name is Shinseki and I'm here to end veteran homelessness."](#)

Secretary Shinseki will find a willing partner in the House of Representatives and I look forward to working with him to make that goal a reality.

Before I close, I'd like to invite you to join me at 10:00 this Saturday at the Edgewood Theatre for the Performing Arts (607 SW 34th Street) for a screening of the PBS documentary "Medal of Honor" at [an event honoring San Antonio's veterans](#) .

Today marks the 55th anniversary of Veterans Day. I encourage you to join me in recognizing and honoring our veterans and all that they have done for us. As I listened to the speakers and looked out on the audience at this morning's ceremony at Fort Sam, particularly in light of last week's tragedy, the point came home to me again. I am so proud to be an American, to come

from a country of such brave men and women, and I will continue to do my part, to contribute what I can, to celebrate that.

I wish you all a happy Veterans Day.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "M".